



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,563	10/10/2001	Fong Piau	FLEX1812	7473
7590 10/03/2003				
PENINSULA IP GROUP A Professional Law Corporation Douglas A. Chaikin, Esq. 2290 North First Street, Suite 101 San Jose, CA 95131			EXAMINER	
			LE, VU ANH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2824	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/975,563

Applicant(s)

PIAU ET AL.

Examiner

Vu A. Le

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 8 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6-7, 9-10, and 13-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitani (6,125,061).

Mitani (Fig.1) disclose a compact flash memory controller (Abstract) for controlling transfer of data between flash memory (14) and a host device (3) comprising a PCMCIA-ATA flash memory interface (3, see Abstract and col.1, line 25), an IDE interface (inherent), a microcontroller (6), a ROM memory (16) for program storage, a RAM memory (18) for program execution and to maintain a set of command and attribute registers used by the microcontroller to manage the data transfer operation in and out of a plurality of flash memory, a buffer manager (12) for temporarily storing data to be transferred to and from flash memory, a flash sequencer (8) for controlling the transfer of a data to and from flash memory that has been received from the buffer manager, and a data bus (Fig.1) coupled to the set of operative components that include the microcontroller, the PCMCIA-ATA flash memory interface, the IDE interface, the ROM memory, the RAM memory and the buffer manager.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitani in view of Fukuzumi (6,363,009).

Claims 8 and 12 recite a limitation of the compact flash controller can access a plurality of flash memory modules which is not disclosed in the Mitani. Fukuzumi (Fig.1) discloses a compact flash controller can access a plurality of flash memory modules (31-33). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to modify Mitani by using the compact flash controller to access a plurality of flash memory modules instead of one memory module such as taught by Fukuzumi to handle the user data in large quantity (col.2, lines 15-16).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 15-22 allowed.
6. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-10 and 13-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2824

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Nishizawa et al (6,531,773) disclose an interface controller for memory devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu A. Le whose telephone number is (703) 308-1497.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (703) 308-2816. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Vu A. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2824

09/21/03